GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1487
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Blackmarketing/Smuggling of Fertilizers/Urea
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy to check the black-marketing of kerosene and chemical fertilizers and to transfer the benefits of subsidy directly to the consumers;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the time by which the said system is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (c): PDS Kerosene supplies to Kerosene Dealers are done on Ex-MI (Marketing Installation) basis by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further Distribution of PDS kerosene within the State to the ration card holders through ration shops/retailers is controlled by the State Government. The State Civil Supplies Authorities ensure that the product uplifted is delivered to the fair price shops and to the intended beneficiaries.

In order to check the black marketing/adulteration of PDS kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as per which dealers have to sell PDS Kerosene at a price fixed by the Government or OMCs and have to prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. Further, PDS kerosene released is dyed with blue dye to facilitate detection of PDS kerosene in non-PDS uses. Under this Control Order, State Governments are also empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Field Officers of OMCs inspect the Kerosene Dealerships and check for irregularities like non-observance of Government/OMCs regulations, over charging, unauthorized purchase and stock variation. In case of any irregularities, action is taken as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

OMCs hosted a web portal which enables public access to the movement of PDS Kerosene tank trucks. It provides details of the tank truck movement carrying PDS Kerosene from their Dispatch Units/Depots/ Installations to the various dealers along with their names, invoice number, quantity of product, time of dispatch, tank truck number, etc. on the websites on real time basis.

Government intends to implement Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme in Kerosene in 25 Districts identified by the State Governments, on a Pilot basis.

To check the black marketing of chemical fertilizers, the fertilizer companies are required to clearly print the MRP along with applicable subsidy on each fertilizer bag. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities (EC) Act. The possibilities of transferring the benefits of fertilizers subsidy directly to the farmers are being explored in the Department of Fertilizers.

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